

ASDO NEPA DOCUMENT ROUTING SHEET

NEPA Document Number: DOI-BLM-AZ-A020-2011-0003-CX

Project Title: Lone Tree Productions, AZA-35647

Project Lead: Linda Barwick

Date that any scoping meeting was conducted: N/A

Date that concurrent, electronic distribution for review was initiated: April 13, 2011

Deadline for receipt of responses: **SHORT TURN AROUND FILM PERMIT
DUE APRIL 26, 2011**

ID Team/Required Reviewers will be determined at scoping meeting or as a default the following:

Gloria Benson, Tribal Liaison
Diana Hawks, Recreation/Wilderness/VRM
Rody Cox, Lands/Realty/Minerals
Lorraine Christian, Wildlife/T&E Wildlife
John Herron, Cultural
Jackie Roaque, Special Status Plants
Ray Klein, GCPNM Supervisory Ranger
Linda Price, S&G
Whit Bunting, Range/Vegetation/Weeds
Richard Spotts, Environmental Coordinator
John Sims, Supervisory Law Enforcement
Lorraine Christian, ASFO Field Manager

Required Recipients of electronic distribution E-mails only (not reminders):

Andi Rogers (E-mail address: arogers@azgfd.gov)
Sarah Reif (E-mail address: sreif@azgfd.gov)
LeAnn Skrzynski (E-mail address: lskrzynski@kaibabpaiute-nsn.gov)

(Ms. Rogers and Ms. Reif are Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) habitat specialists. Ms. Skrzynski is Environmental Program Director for the Kaibab Paiute Tribe (KPT). They may review and/or forward on ASDO NEPA documents to other employees. If a Project Lead receives comments from any AGFD employee on their draft NEPA document, they should include them in the complete set/administrative record and share them with Lorraine Christian as the Acting, ASDO Wildlife Team Lead. Ms. Christian will then recommend how these comments should be addressed. If a Project Lead receives comments from any KPT employee, they should include them in the complete set/administrative record and share them with Gloria Benson as the ASDO Native American Coordinator. Ms. Benson will then recommend how these comments should be addressed.)

Discretionary Reviewers:

(insert names and titles of any additional reviewers recommended by Project Lead, Manager(s), Environmental Coordinator, or from scoping meetings)

NEPA Document Number: DOI-BLM-AZ-A020-2011-0003-CX
Categorical Exclusion Documentation

A. Background

BLM Office: Vermilion Cliffs National Monument and
Arizona Strip Field Office

Case File No.: AZA-35647

Proposed Action Title/Type: Lone Tree Productions Film Permit

Location of Proposed Action: The proposed action is located within the following described area and as shown on the attached map (Attachment 1):

Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona

T. 39 N., R. 3 E., sec., 12, SW.

T. 39 N., R. 7 E., sec. 17, NE.

Containing 10.0 acres, more or less

Description of Proposed Action: An application has been filed for a permit (43 CFR 2920) to film a segment for the syndicated television series “Arizona Highways”, which promotes in-state tourism, cultural, wildlife, and environmental conservation and preservation. The filming would be of Chris Parish and other members of the Peregrine Fund capturing California condors in order to tag them for identification purposes, and also to monitor their health. Filming would take place at the pens that house the condors and also at the release site within Vermilion Cliffs National Monument. Filming of scenery would also be at the Badger Creek Overlook on the Arizona Strip Field Office. (See Attachment 1- Map).

The crew would consist of eight (8) people from Lone Tree Productions. Equipment would consist of one (1) Sony F3 video and one (1) Canon 5D camera. There would be three (3) vehicles to carry crew and equipment to the condor pen site’s locked gate area; the rest of the way to the pens would be by foot. Access to the pen site area would be on existing administrative roads while access to the Badger Creek Overlook would be on an existing road. Date for filming activities would be May 2, 2011.

No surface disturbance is proposed other than prints from foot traffic. No props or sets are proposed. Permit would be subject to all provisions of 43 CFR 2920 including the terms and conditions identified in 43 CFR 2920.7 and listed in Permit Terms and Conditions (Attachment 3.)

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name: Vermilion Cliffs National Monument Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Arizona Strip Field Office RMP.

Date Approved: January 29, 2008 (for both RMPs)

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

Vermilion Cliffs National Monument RMP

MA-LR-07 – “Minimum impact permits within the Monument will be evaluated and authorized on a case-by-case basis where site-specific NEPA analysis determines that impacts to the objects or values for which the Monument was designated would be negligible”.

Arizona Strip Field Office RMP

MA-LR-06 “Individual land use authorizations (ROWs, permits, leases, easements) will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in accordance with other RMP provisions and NEPA compliance. New land use authorizations will be discouraged within avoidance areas (i.e., ACECs, lands supporting listed species, NHTs, riparian areas, and areas managed to maintain wilderness characteristics) and allowed in such areas only when no reasonable alternative exists and impacts to these sensitive resources can be mitigated”.

It has been determined that the proposed filming activity is “minimum impact” due to its lack of potential for resource damage or controversy. It has also been determined that the proposed action does not conflict with other decisions in the two RMPs.

C: Compliance with NEPA:

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E (19), which provides for the issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations for such uses as storage sites, apiary sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition.

No site rehabilitation would be necessary because the proposed filming is considered “minimum impact” and would not result in any ground disturbance. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply (Attachment 2).

I considered the short duration and low/minimum impacting nature of the proposal along with the additional permit terms and conditions identified in Attachment 3 which would not cause appreciable damage or disturbance to the public lands, their resources, or improvements in accordance with 43 CFR 2920.2-2.

D: Signature

Authorizing Official: _____ Date: _____
Lorraine M. Christian, Field Manager

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Linda Barwick, Land Law Examiner, BLM, Arizona Strip Field Office, 345 East Riverside Drive, St. George, Utah 84790; phone (435) 688-3287.

ATTACHMENT 1
MAP

Attachment 2

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES REVIEW AND CHECKLIST

IMPORTANT: Appropriate staff should review the circumstances listed below, and comment for concurrence. Rationale supporting the concurrence should be included where appropriate.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES Does the proposed action...	YES/NO & RATIONALE (If Appropriate)	STAFF
1. Have significant impacts on public health and safety?	NO	RCox
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness or wilderness study areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?	NO	DHawks JHerron LChristian
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]?	NO	RCox
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	NO	RCox
5. Establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects?	NO	RCox
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	NO	RCox
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the Bureau or office?	NO	JHerron
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?	NO	LChristian JRoague
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	NO	LChristian GBenson
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?	NO	RCox
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners, or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?	NO	GBenson
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area, or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?	NO	WBunting

Attachment 3

Permit Terms and Conditions Lone Tree Productions Filming Permit AZA-35647

1. The permittee's vehicles are restricted to existing roads (see Stipulation 4) and will not drive beyond the rock barrier at Badger Creek. It is the permittee's responsibility to ensure that pedestrians beyond the rock barrier at Badger Creek are aware that the **endangered Brady Pincushion Cactus (*Pediocactus bradyi*)** (see Attachment 4) occur in this area and must be avoided.
2. The permittee will conduct all activities associated with the operation and termination of the permit within the authorized limits of the permitted areas.
3. Use areas will be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials at those areas will be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. "Waste" means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and equipment. "Waste" also includes the creation of micro-trash such as bottle caps, pull tabs, broken glass, cigarette butts, small plastic, etc. No micro-trash will be left at use areas and trash receptacles used at the areas will be wildlife proof.
4. No staging areas or off-road vehicle use are authorized. All motorized and mechanized vehicles must stay on existing roads, i.e., there will be no off-road driving and all parking must occur in previously disturbed areas in order to prevent damage to special status plants and other sensitive resources.
5. The BLM reserves the right to take photographs of any aspect of filming operations for official case file records.
6. Permittee will be responsible for the supervision of all participants, spectators, and other persons associated with the activity, and will be responsible for public safety on-site.
7. Permittee must contact and receive concurrence and license, where required from all state, county, and local governmental agencies having jurisdiction, concern, or interest in this activity.
8. Permittee will be responsible for ensuring sanitation facilities for participants is provided.
9. This permit does not give permission to cross over or use private land. The permittee will be fully responsible for all trespass on and/or damages to private land which may result from the permittee's activity.
10. Permittee will do everything reasonable, both independently and/or upon request of the authorized officer to prevent and suppress fires caused by their activity on or near lands utilized. Compensation may be required of the permittee for Federal, state, or private interests in suppression and rehabilitation expenses.